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## Daily Eastern News: May 16, 2006

Eastern Illinois University

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

TUESDAY  
MAY  
16  
2006

## Computer theft still under investigation

### Laptops replaced with insurance

By ANN BEAUCHANE  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

February was a high time for thievery at Eastern. So severe the two cases are still under investigation.

On Feb. 15 two projectors were reported stolen from Coleman Hall rooms 1731 and 2150. A week and a half later, 30 laptops belonging to the College of Business were stolen from an unlocked cart in Lumpkin Hall.

John Henderson, acting director of Client Services for CATS, said the laptops have already been replaced.

"We have insurance on them so the univer-

sity was able to replace them after spring break," Henderson said.

Adam Due, University Police Department Chief, said "We're trying to work with the departments of all the buildings to make them more secure."

It is currently unknown who stole the laptops and Due said the UPD is still looking into it. They have noticed a problem with staff not locking classroom doors when the rooms

are going to be unattended.

"They leave the classroom without locking the door and no one will be there for 15 minutes or an hour and a half," Due said.

Staff members of Lumpkin Hall made sure students were aware of the problem and its severity.

SEE LAPTOPS PAGE 6



CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT

President George W. Bush poses for a still photo after delivering a televised speech on immigration from the White House Oval Office in Washington, D.C., Monday.

## Bush sends troops to Mexican border

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - President Bush's new plan for fixing the nation's immigration woes is an old-fashioned carrot-and-stick approach.

The stick comes in the form of 6,000 National Guard troops dispatched to the U.S.-Mexico border to help support efforts to apprehend foreigners trying to sneak into the country. The carrot goes to millions of illegal immigrants already working in the U.S. who would get the chance to become citizens if they were willing to pay a fine and back taxes and learn English.

The one-two combo is aimed at winning support from get-tough conservatives so that Bush can achieve his goal of creating an immigration system that he says would be more fair and humane. Bush also wants temporary permits for foreigners to come to the United States and work in low-paying jobs.

Some conservatives in Bush's party say the citizenship proposal amounts to amnesty. He rejected that term in a prime-time Oval Office address timed to coincide with the start of Senate debate on the issue.

"It is neither wise nor realistic to round up millions of people, many with deep roots in the United States and send them across the border," Bush said. "There is a rational middle ground between granting an automatic path to citizenship for every illegal immigrant and a program of mass deportation."

The National Guard troops, which the White House hopes would begin moving to



NORA MABERRY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Elizabeth Williams, a first grader from Sidney, Ill., accepts her award as the 24th International Children's Exhibition at the Tarble Arts Center Saturday. Williams entered a crayon drawing in the competition.

## Tarble hosts kids' art

By NORA MABERRY  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Signs of pride and enthusiasm were shown by all Saturday at the 24th Annual International Children's Exhibition held at the Tarble Arts Center.

Kit Morice, Tarble Arts Center curator of education, said, "over 650 people are in attendance."

Morice said of those 650 people, 300 consist of students in grades K-12 plus parents, grandparents and siblings.

The students were recognized for their hard work in two and three-dimensional art. Around every corner diverse styles and pieces were on display. From painted self-portraits to Popsicle stick creations, the students impressively represented several genres of art.

While walking through the exhibit, one could not help but notice the children enjoying their successes and achievements. Parents and students alike were all smiles and

expressed their love of the arts.

Randy and Joy Turner, whose daughter Emily submitted a drawing of herself, articulated their gratitude for their daughter's participation in art.

"Art is a part of the richness of life and when it gets taken away, it's our loss and their loss," said Joy Turner.

Randy showed similar devotion to art programs, "I'm saddened to read when they cut art programs because of all the different things they [the kids] are able to try."

Their daughter, Emily, a sixth-grader from Crestwood Unit #4, expressed her love of art class.

"I like the hands-on activities. It's fun to not be restricted by worksheets," said Turner.

Emily was excited to share her favorite thing in art class.

"I like clay the best. I have made a horse, a box and a set a ducks."

Emily has become so involved with art that she expressed her desire to continue creating.

"I want to be artist when I grow up."

Like Emily and her parents, several families gave a sense of pride as they walked through the displays.

Larry Moschenrose, father of Stewardson-Strasburg first-grader Derek, defines art as an "outlet that allows children to show a lot of creativity."

Derek said he likes "the paint, the paintbrush and the straws the best." His project, which took him "two to three days to complete" featured a garden plot of daffodils.

When asked why he chose to create daffodils he simply said, "They're pretty!"

Joyce Jackson, a teacher from Williams Elementary in Mattoon, said that art allows students to excel academically.

"Scholastically, they get posted in the paper for honor roll," said Jackson. "The kids are very gifted artistically and it's good to recognize them."

Jackson continued, "Kids work very hard at being artists."



# Grad going to Country Music Television

## ■ Whitney Self to become producer for national TV station

By KATEY MITCHELL  
CAMPUS EDITOR

When recent graduate Whitney Self was little she dreamed of being famous. It did not matter how or what she was famous for, just as long as she was a household name. Now, many years later, Self leaves her award-winning position at WEIU and is on her way of achieving her childhood dream through broadcasting.

About five minutes before she goes on air, Whitney Self sits comfortably in a chair by the back offices of the WEIU newsroom. The entire room is buzzing with the eagerness of the upcoming show. Self seems content, almost as if she belongs in the organized chaos. Any bystander can tell that she is in her element.

She prepares her notes for her second to last broadcast as a top anchor for WEIU news. Although being known for doing just about everything in the newsroom, from writing to reporting to even producing, she is best known and most talented at anchoring.

Self was the first person at WEIU to win the National Award for best collegiate news anchor. It would be a sad thought to think the next day she might give one of her last on-air appearances as an anchor.

However, none of that seems to bother Self. She looks back at her four years of working in the newsroom and graciously reflects her experiences, both professionally and personally, and how much she has learned from both.

She starts with the beginning of her time at WEIU. She came in as a freshman with no experience in news or broadcasting at all. She did not even think about broadcasting until her mother said something right before orientation.

"One day my mom was watching TV right before coming to Eastern for freshman orientation," Self said. "She was watching WEIU and she turns to me and said 'You can do that.' I was just like 'Ok.' So at orientation I sought out Kelly [Runyon] and it started from there."

Kelly Runyon, WEIU news director, has been Self's mentor since she started four years ago. When looking back on her friend and student, she reminisces on how much Self has grown as a journalist.

"When I first met Whitney she had no experience," Runyon said. "She did not know what her skills were. Over the course of four years though, she grew into a journalist and just kept getting better and better until she reached the point she is at today."

Self looks back at this time and shares how hard it was at first. She was just thrown into reporting with just a few hints from Runyon. She really did not know what she was doing. "But that's how she [Runyon] works, either sink or swim. It is the best way to weed out the



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern graduate Whitney Self poses with an award that she won at the annual journalism banquet for her achievements in working with WEIU.

### Whitney's Facts

- ◆ Worked as broadcast anchor at WEIU
- ◆ First person at WEIU to win the National Award for best collegiate news anchor
- ◆ Graduated May 6, 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism
- ◆ Self worked summer 2005 at CMT as an intern, after graduation she became an associate producer at CMT in Nashville

people who can't take it."

Self stuck it out because after the first day, even though it was extremely hard, she knew that broadcasting was what she wanted to do. After a while it got easier for her and she set up patterns for herself.

She also learned everything you can in a broadcasting news room so she became a jack of all trades for WEIU. She even received a summer internship last year for Country

Music Television network.

Self and Runyon have a very close relationship; in fact, Self compares Runyon to a second mom. They have shared many stories together, including the one when Runyon told Self she won the national award earlier this year.

Runyon says that when she got the email that Self won the award, she called Self into her office but sounded like she was mad at her.

**"She's really nice and makes alot of jokes"**

MICHELLE BRUEGGEMAN, SOPHOMORE JOURNALISM MAJOR

"She was so worried that I was mad at her," Runyon says. "She was going around the newsroom asking if anyone knew why I was mad at her. By the time she got into my office she was in tears. I told that I wasn't mad at her and that she won the award. Then she was crying for a different reason."

Self says, "Actually, I was still crying not really because I won but because I was so happy Kelly was not mad at me."

That story seems to sum up who Self really is.

She is kind, caring and more concerned about others than herself. In fact, Self was known to help out other students in the WEIU newsroom whenever she could.

Andrea Stankevych, a recent graduate with a degree in communication studies in broadcasting news, has been anchoring with Self for three years.

She says when she first came into the studio her main goal was to anchor.

So she looked up to Self because she was the first anchor she knew.

Self came out and taught Stankevych everything she knew about anchoring and the two became close friends. Stankevych shares some of the experiences she has had with Self.

When they would anchor together, during breaks they would write notes to each other to make the time go by faster. She mentions briefly about a time when she, Self and a few others from the studio made a trip to Las Vegas for a convention and they all just had a blast.

But her funniest memory of working with Self was "one time on a break while anchoring our mikes were not shut off, or clipped, and people could hear us giggling on the TV with each other."

Self has also helped Michelle Brueggeman, a sophomore journalism major with a concentration in broadcasting, on how to write news stories when she first started out.

"It's not a big thing, it's just Whitney, just another person in the newsroom," says Brueggeman.

"She's really nice and makes a lot of jokes. If you had a really bad day, you can just come in the studio and she is just joking around. She makes it fun. We will definitely miss her."

Many of the faculty and students at WEIU have said how much they are going to miss Self when she graduates. They said they are losing one of their biggest assets. It will be hard for someone to fill the shoes Self has left.

Now she is just waiting until Friday when she leaves the state of Illinois for good. She is moving to an apartment in Nashville two blocks from her new job as associate producer at CMT studios.

She is moving on to bigger and better things. Who knows, it might not be long until Whitney Self becomes a household name.

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**STAFF LIST**  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF.....NORA MABERRY**  
581-7942 .....DENEic@gmail.com

**NEWS EDITOR.....HEATHER RANDOLPH**  
581-7942 .....DENnewsdesk@gmail.com  
**ONLINE EDITOR.....BRANDON CAMPBELL**  
581-7941 .....DENonlinedesk@gmail.com  
**PHOTO EDITOR.....JAY GRABIEC**  
581-7945 .....DENphotodesk@gmail.com  
**SPORTS EDITOR.....BRANDON NETIUK**  
581-7944 .....DENsportsdesk@gmail.com  
**CAMPUS EDITOR.....KATEY MITCHELL**  
581-7942 .....DENcampus@gmail.com  
**ADVERTISING MANAGER.....DAVID HANLEY**  
581-2812 .....DENads@eiu.edu

**PROMOTIONS MANAGER...BLAKE DONDINGER**  
**BUSINESS MANAGER.....BETSY MELLOTT**  
**EDITORIAL ADVISER.....JOE GISONDI**  
.....rfjg@eiu.edu  
**PUBLISHER.....JOHN RYAN**  
.....rfjmr1@eiu.edu  
**PRESS SUPERVISOR.....TOM ROBERTS**  
**PHONE: 217-581-2812 FAX: 581-2923**  
**E-MAIL: DENEic@GMAIL.COM**  
**NIGHT PRODUCTION STAFF:**

**NIGHT CHIEF.....CINDY TANNEY**  
**COPY CHIEF.....KYLE MAYHUGH**  
**INSIDE DESIGN.....NATHAN PEPPER**  
**SPORTS DESIGN.....BRANDON NETIUK**  
**NIGHT PHOTO EDITOR.....JAY GRABIEC**  
**COPY EDITORS.....CHRIS CALVERT**  
.....KATEY MITCHELL  
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# SCHOOL'S OUT, FOREVER

## 1,600 grads take part in ceremony

BY NORA MABERRY  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Mothers, fathers, sons and daughters all participated in the annual spring commencement ceremony held May 6 in Lantz Arena at Eastern.

Jerry F. Cooper graduated with a board of trustees degree during the noon ceremony, three hours behind her daughter Courtney, who graduated with a degree in political science.

"It's good to have a support system here," said Cooper as her husband, Jerry R. Cooper adjusted the collar on her gown.

The support system was more than the family and friends that attended the ceremony. It included the volunteer staff that guided graduates through Lantz Arena.

Gary Reed, director of Facilities Planning and Management, volunteered as commencement staff and directed students through the Lantz Fieldhouse before the ceremony.

"Every kid that walks through that I give directions to I congratulate, you can't hear that enough, they need to hear that," said Reed. "This is a great day, I wouldn't miss this for the world."

Before the ceremony began women could be found in the women's locker room adjusting their tassels, hats and collars but once the ceremony began the fidgeting stopped and the seriousness began. During the ceremonies, former Student Body President Ryan Berger addressed the audience. He reminded all the graduates to remember those in the world who were not as fortunate as them and to remember all the good times they had at Eastern, including the professors that had educated them for the past four years.

"You will be missed by your professors," said Berger. "But we will miss our professors more. You taught us, listened to us and inspired us both in and outside the classroom."

To close his speech Berger left his fellow students with some advice.

"I leave you with four things," said Berger. "Don't settle for anything, do what you love even if it pays less, takes chances and love your



Allison Thiele pins her cap on with bobby pins in the women's locker room of the Lantz Fieldhouse before graduation ceremonies on May 6, 2006. "I'm only nervous about the hat," said Thiele.

family."

Near the end of the ceremony, Eastern President Lou Hencken took the stage and addressed the graduates.

"Now as you enter the real world, remember what you have learned today," said Hencken. "You can do many things you did not think you were capable of doing."

"Persistence, never giving up and believing in yourself are qualities I hope you take with you today," said Hencken.

Patrick Coburn also addressed the graduates at the noon ceremony. Coburn, the publisher of the Springfield State Journal Register, received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. Coburn reminded the graduates of the sacrifices their parents had made in

order for them to be sitting where they were.

"The parents here today deserve our admiration for the sacrifices they have made in support of these daughters and sons," said Coburn.

Coburn concluded his speech by saying, "live long and prosper."

As the graduates received their degrees most were thinking about not tripping on stage.

"I was nervous that I would fall," said Tiffany Risley, who received a bachelor's of science in psychology degree.

Risley didn't fall and neither did anyone else. After the graduates received their degrees they filed into the Student Recreation Center to return their gowns.

As they were returning their gowns Mary Pat Carroll and Lynn Ingram, who both received board of trustees degrees, agreed that they were proud to walk across the stage and

receive their degrees.

"We were thrilled," said Ingram.

"It was a great accomplishment," added Carroll.

Kelly Johnson, who received a bachelor's of sciences in psychology, said that she had many emotions on her graduation day.

"I was nervous, excited and calm, all of them together," said Johnson. "It was kinda weird."

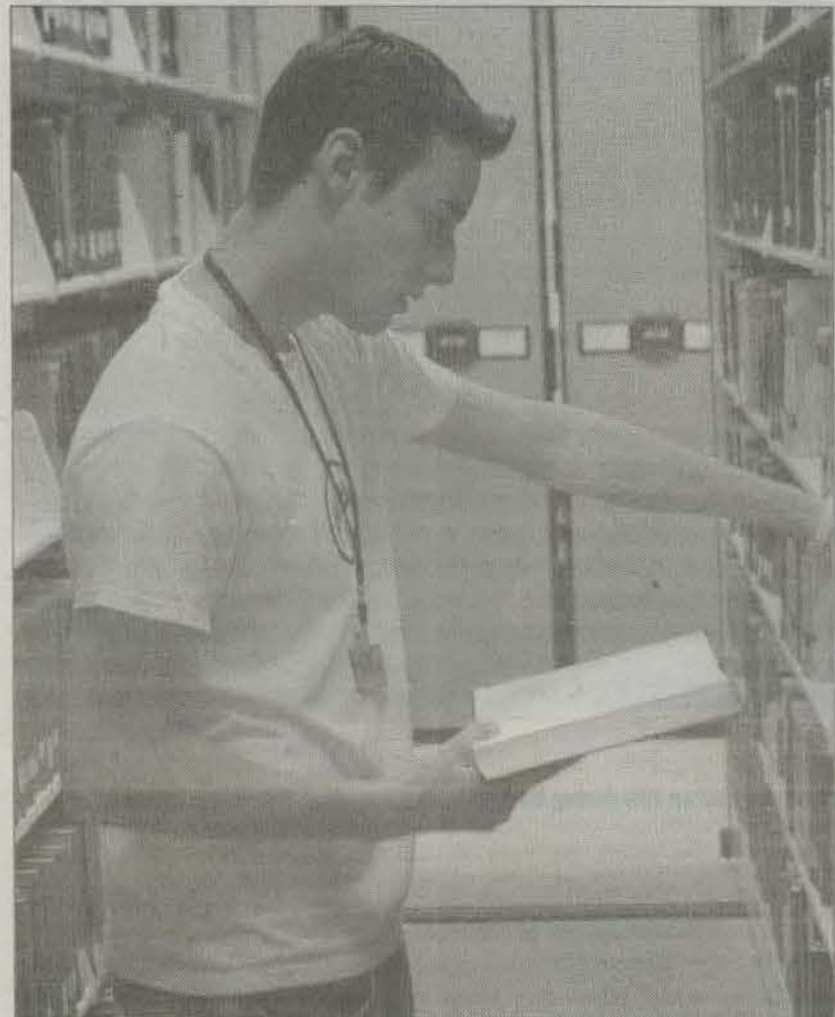
"All that was going through my head was shake with the right, take with the left."

Johnson's mother, father and grandmother attended the ceremony.

"Seeing her get her diploma was outstanding. We were proud," said Thomas Johnson.

Kelsey Garner graduated with a bachelor's of sciences degree in geography and geology.

"Graduation was pretty cool," said Garner. "But I checked out the graduation slideshow."



Paul Teresi, a junior history major, re-shelves books in Booth library on Friday evening. Teresi will be working throughout intersession for extra money.

## Eastern's reduced office hours cut energy costs

BY NORA MABERRY  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Eastern will save at least \$80,000 this summer by closing buildings at noon on Fridays this summer.

The closings began May 8 and will continue through August 14.

This is the fourth year that President Hencken has successfully initiated the four-and-a-half-day work week for energy conservation purposes, said Gary Reed, director of Facilities Management at Eastern Illinois University.

"It enables the University to turn down or turn off the air conditioning for the weekend," said Vicki Woodard, director of University Communications at Eastern.

Not only do the outages conserve power, they also conserve money for the university.

"It's been told to me that the outages turn into some savings over the summer for the university," said Woodard.

By shutting off the power and closing building, Reed said the university will save \$80,000 to \$100,000 this summer in utilities.

"In light of increasing cost of energy," said Reed, "This initiative makes very good sense and has been very successful."

Facilities Planning and Management works with

Academic Affairs, Housing and Dining, and campus scheduling to coordinate building shutdowns to ensure minimal disruptions, said Reed.

Facilities Planning and Management controls the cooling equipment in buildings that are equipped with computerized building automation systems and schedules them to be shut down beginning Friday afternoon through Sunday night, said Reed.

"Some building such as Booth Library, Klehm Hall, Life Science and Physical Science buildings remain on due to the critical nature of material and equipment within these buildings," said Reed.

If a building has a special event taking place on the weekends, the comfort cooling system is turned on for the duration of the event and then shuts down when the event is done to save as much energy as possible, said Reed. Not only is the air conditioning shut off in most buildings on campus, several buildings will be effected by electrical power outages.

These outages are scheduled so work on the Doudna Fine Arts Building can continue safely.

All university offices are required to remain open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The Gregg computer lab will remain open on Fridays for students to use. Additionally, the Office of Admissions, University Police and the Steam Plant will also remain open on Fridays.



# OPINION

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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DENic@gmail.com

### EDITORIAL

## Graduation was problem-free

On May 6, Eastern's campus was filled with the family and friends of the 1,600 graduates that walked across the stage at Lantz Arena. The administrators, volunteers, family, friends and graduates should be commended for graduation day taking place with out any major problems.

Administrators start planning commencement months in advance to ensure that the day is enjoyable for graduates and their families. They plan the logistics of the event, including how many tickets each student can receive and where all the visitors to campus can park. They plan how long each speaker can speak, what colleges graduate together and how long each ceremony will be, down to the minute. The administration should be applauded for making sure that the ceremonies are timely and efficient, enabling graduates to spend more time celebrating with their families instead of sitting through a long ceremony.

Besides the administration, hundreds of volunteers help throughout the day. Volunteers told graduates where to go once they were in side Lantz. Volunteers also directed parents towards their seats and put up signs directing cars to the appropriate parking lots. Volunteers were the last people students saw inside the Student Recreation Center as they dropped off their cap and gowns.

Eastern should be proud of the graduating class of 2006 for all they accomplished and the graduating class should be thankful to the volunteers and the Eastern administration for ensuring that the day was problem free.

## Energy cutting measures effective

For the past four years Eastern has let workers in certain buildings go home early on Fridays. This is beneficial to the university because it saves Eastern money during the summer months.

"Cost avoidance in electrical and water utilities has been estimated between \$80,000 and \$100,000 during the summer," said Gary Reed, director of facilities planning and management.

This is a large amount of money the University is saving just by closing offices early on Fridays. This money can be used to benefit students in other ways through out the school year.

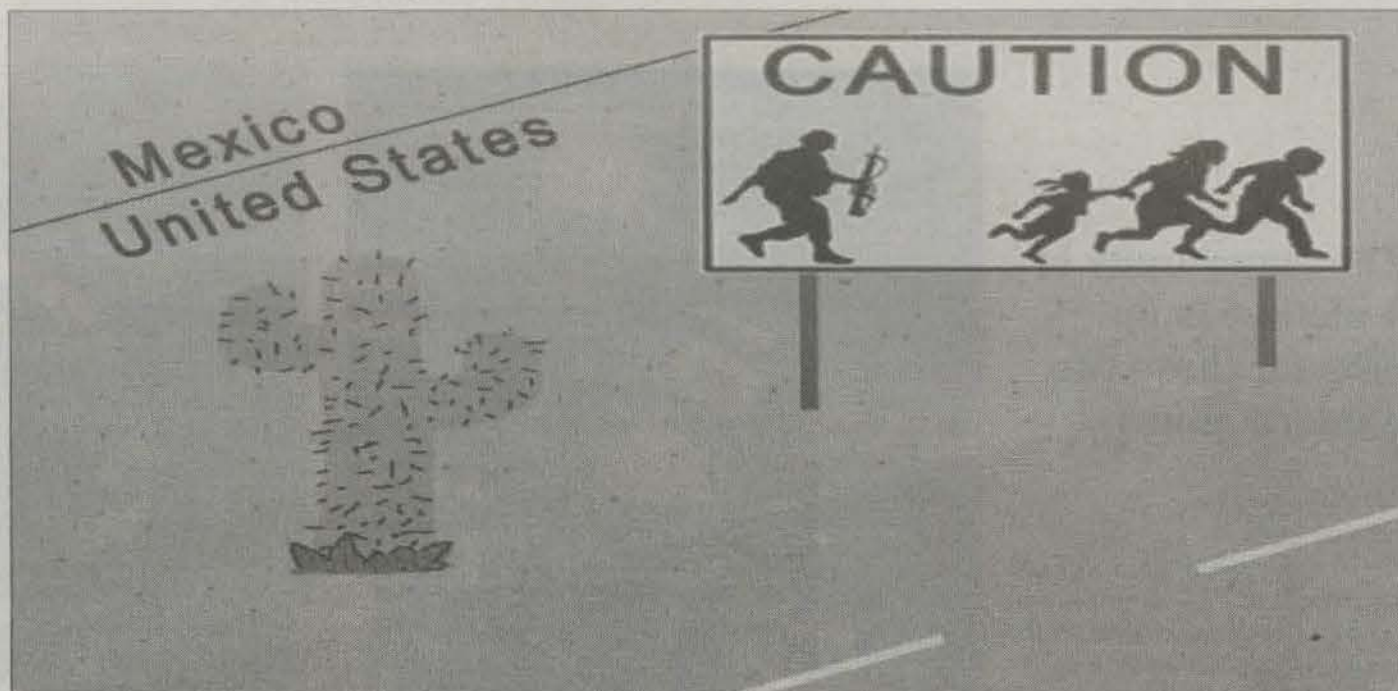
The majority of Eastern students go home on the weekends. This is even more obvious during the summer months when enrollment is a third of what it is during the school year.

The university staff should be accessible to students whenever possible, however keeping an office open for five hours in the afternoon when no one may use it is not cost efficient.

While having certain offices on campus closed on Friday afternoons may inconvenience some students, the offices are open 56.5 hours each week. This is more than enough time for students to complete any business they may need to accomplish during the week.

*The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board.*

### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY CHRIS CALVERT



### COMMENTARY

## Survey can't find the mark

According to a story called "Where's Iraq? Young Adults Don't Know" on CBSnews.com, the majority of people ages 18-24 are completely incompetent about geography and the news.

The story cites a National Geographic survey taken of 510 people. The people were all questioned between December 2005 and January 2006.

Those surveyed were asked to locate countries or states on a map, were asked geographical questions about the news, and a few miscellaneous questions regarding geographical data.

In my estimation, the answers given by 510 participants are hardly enough to make a valid judgment regarding the state of young people's education or intelligence in this country.

Nonetheless, I felt obligated to share some of the results of said survey and offer my own criticism about the findings. I can understand how 60% of the people would not be able to find Iraq on a map. I probably couldn't either. I have never been to Iraq, nor have any desire to go there.

I can further relate to the 67% of those



**CARISSA HAYDEN**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

**"I have little patience when I hear that 33% of those interviewed could not find Louisiana and just fewer than 50% could not find Mississippi on a map."**

interviewed who were unaware that an earthquake killed 70,000 people in Pakistan last October. Nobody in their right mind memorizes those kinds of statistics. Had the report claimed that 67% were totally unaware of an earthquake even occurring, I might have been a little more appalled.

I can even forgive the almost 50% who couldn't find India on a map.

However, I have little patience when I hear that 33% of those interviewed could not find Louisiana and just fewer than

50% could not find Mississippi on a map. Mississippi is on the Mississippi River, for Pete's sake.

It is important to know where foreign countries are located, especially countries with whom the U.S. happens to be involved for whatever reason.

In my way of thinking, it is more important to know where the 50 states are, though.

Probably not many people feel the South is as important as I do, but U.S. citizens should still know where all the states are in their own country.

Though the results were a little shocking, National Geographic did not disclose whom they interviewed, so the interviewees could have been people who daydreamed in geography class or could have given bogus answers as a sort of joke.

Either way, the survey sounds a little too much like something from Jay Leno's "Jaywalking" to be taken very seriously.

Maybe Jay conducted the interviews.

*Comments? Let us know at  
denopinions@gmail.com*

## YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff at *The Daily Eastern News* wants to know what students think about current events, campus issues, college living and anything else.

Editorial cartoons run everyday, while guest columns run once a week on Wednesday. Anyone is welcome to write or draw a cartoon, but it is at the editor's discretion when to run the column or the cartoon.

### COLUMNISTS NEEDED

Have an opinion? We want to hear it! *The Daily Eastern News* is looking for students interested in voicing opinions on campus, state, national and international issues through columns.

*The DEN* reserves Wednesday guest column spot for students, faculty and members of the community. Guest columns should be a minimum of 550 words.

### CARTOONISTS WANTED

The DEN is interested in recruiting cartoonists that display artistic ability, particularly caricatures and tasteful humor as well as address campus issues. A grasp of the news and current events is necessary for cartoonists to be effective.

Columns, cartoons and letters can be submitted at room 1811 of Buzzard Hall.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be fewer than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to DENic@gmail.com



# Tree commission plants trees for Arbor Day

## Eastern donates trees to increase greenery in Charleston

By BRITTANY MORGAN  
STAFF REPORTER

The Charleston Tree Commission planted over 100 seedlings in the new four-acre tree nursery in celebration of Arbor Day.

On May 5, 2005, the seedlings were transplanted into the nursery. Stan Adkins, a tree commission member, said Wes Whiteside, a retired Eastern professor, donated many seedlings from his home.

Several other small trees were donated from Eastern Illinois University's campus by arborist Dale McCullough.

The seedlings will be used to replace other trees that are being removed for different reasons around the city. Some reasons include street widening, overgrown trees and storm damage, said Curt Devore, City Maintenance and Parks superintendent.

Many of the seedlings will be planted in parks and places like the bike path, softball field and Charleston Lake, said Devore.

The trees will be replaced at a 2-to-1 ratio, said Adkins.

Andy Methven, Tree Commission chairman, said the seedlings that they planted were about 2-3 feet tall and they will be transplanted when they are about 10-12 feet tall.

Devore said the types of trees donated included oaks, magnolias, alders and a golden rain. The golden rain tree donated has clusters of yellow flowers that bloom in August and September instead of the traditional June and July.

The Tree Commission, revived last December, plans to purchase more trees to put in the nursery from other sources with money in the city budget. They have also applied for a grant but it will not be received until 2008, said Devore.

**"The Tree Commission's main goal is to get Charleston's status back as a tree city U.S.A"**

ANDY METHVEN, TREE COMMISSION CHAIR

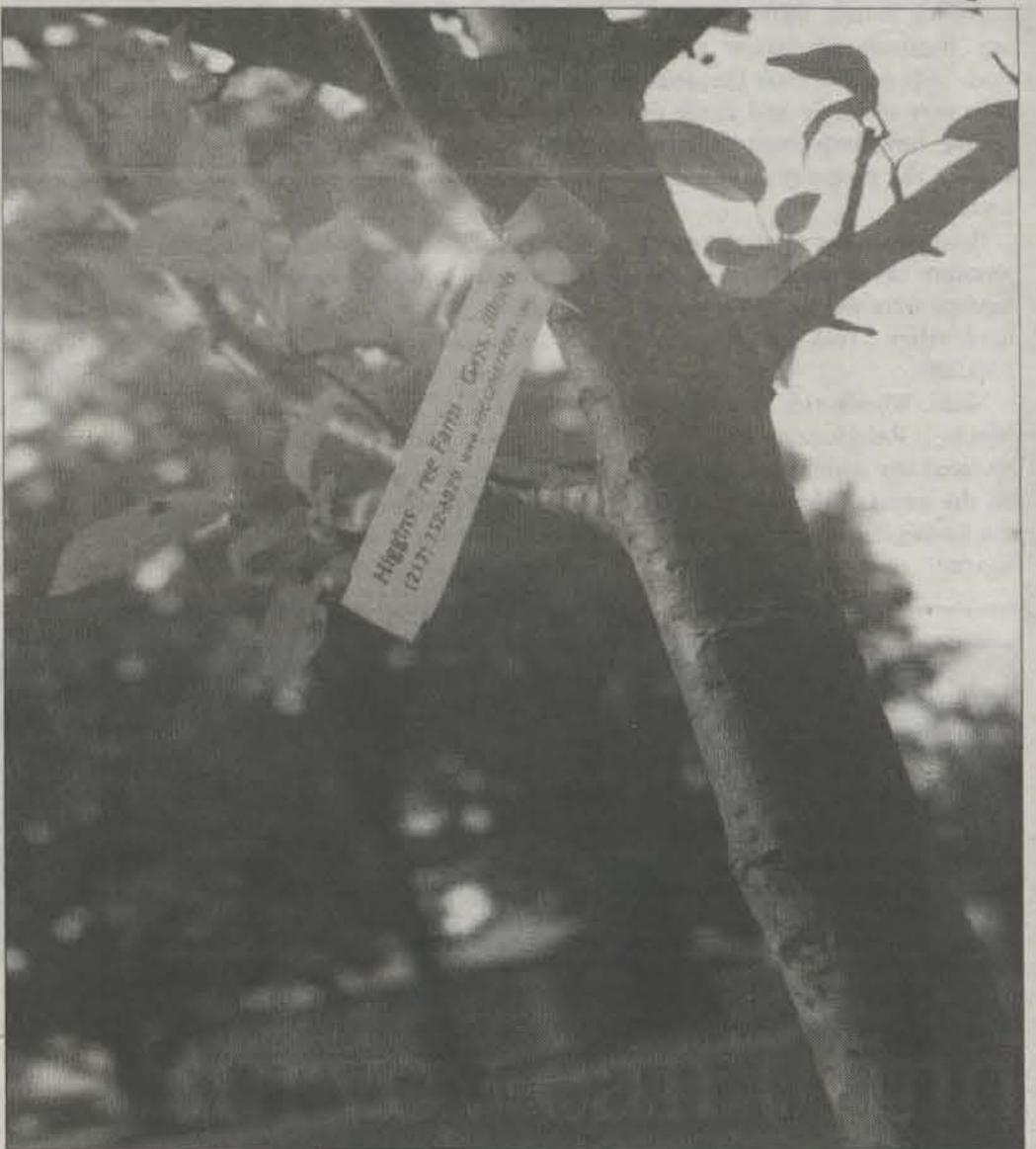
The trees that were planted will not be ready for transplanting for about three to five years, said Adkins.

The Tree Commission plans to plant one acre at a time over the next four years.

The nursery is located west of the Coles County Fairgrounds and just north of the lawn waste drop-off site. This will provide them with mulch for the trees in the nursery, said Devore.

The commission is trying to focus on replacing trees such as silver maples, which are short lived, with trees that will not over-grow or buckle the sidewalks, said Devore.

The Tree Commission also plans to start a tree inventory, to give guidelines for what trees to plant and also to provide recommendations to the city about what trees to cut down, said Methven. Methven said the Tree Commission's main goal is to get "Charleston's status back as a Tree City U.S.A"



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A sapling is labeled with a tag reading Higgins Tree Farm from Gays. The tree is part of the Tree Commissions plan to increase the amount of trees in the city. The trees will be planted in parks and Charleston Lake.

## City Council votes to allow easier access to public records

By ADAM TESTA  
CITY EDITOR

Finding public records in Charleston may become easier. The Charleston City Council will vote today to adopt a policy to outline access to public records.

This information will be compiled in a pamphlet that will be made publicly available listing what information is available and from which departments it can be attained.

"Some people do not know what information is available," said City Clerk Deborah Muller. "This will help them to find out."

Adopting this policy will allow the city to better comply with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. According to the Act, all public bodies must "produce a brief description of the procedures citizens must follow in requesting information and public records."

Also, the Act requires the creation of a directory listing those people to whom requests for information or records should be directed. The policy City Council will vote to adopt will also help comply with this regulation.

"It organizes the process and provides an index of records to each department within the city," said City Manager Scott Smith.

In addition, the Council will vote on the leasing of a new software system, Timekeeping

### On the agenda:

- ◆Resolving street closures for Red, White and Blue Days
- ◆Authorizing a contractual agreement for the Fire and Police Training Range

Software by Kronos, Inc. This new software will make calculating payroll more efficient, said Muller.

Currently, payroll information is entered manually, and the system upgrade will allow for more computerization in the process.

The software is also integrated and will coincide with other current payroll software.

According to Smith, the cost of personnel and time to handle payroll manually is approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually. The Timekeeping software is being purchased on an 18-month lease-to-purchase order for \$37,000.

The software will also serve as a launching platform for other developments, Smith said.

The City Council will also be voting on the emergency purchase of a new vehicle for the city. The vehicle, a 1998 Heavy Duty 3500 truck with a 32' bucket, will replace a truck that burned up last year.

The vehicle will cost \$10,700, and \$5,834 is available from the insurance collected on the old truck.

The extended length bucket on the new truck will eliminate the need to contract out for some utilities, such as light bulb replacements. "The truck will provide us with an additional opportunity to keep some of this work in-house," said Smith.

The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. tonight.

**"Some people do not know what information is available. This will help them to find out."**

DEBORAH MULLER, CITY CLERK

## Gov't consultant received multiple contracts for same work, documents say

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD - A government consultant in the middle of dueling accusations over hiring improprieties in the Blagojevich administration was given a \$30,000 no-bid state contract for a two-month job, then won a second deal for largely the same work, according to documents The Associated Press reviewed.

Consultant Donna Simmons had worked in private business with Ed Wynn, then a top executive with the Department of Central Management Services, before Wynn hired her on the state contracts.

Simmons' state work has become an issue in questions of hiring irregularities at CMS.

Aides to Gov. Rod Blagojevich said Simmons helped uncover improprieties by two CMS personnel bureau employees who were eventually fired. But the fired employees say they were targeted for refusing to cooperate with improper demands from the administration, and because one of them complained about excessive and duplicative contracts to Simmons.

In total, Simmons got \$137,000 from CMS from 2003 to 2005 to restructure the agency's legal and personnel bureaus, both run by Wynn. In an e-mail obtained by The Associated Press, Wynn told then-CMS Director Michael Rumman that Simmons had worked for Wynn in a previous job at Ameritech.

Wynn said Monday he hired Simmons to help him reorganize the CMS legal department, and later the personnel bureau. He said Simmons had done extraordinary work for him at Ameritech, and he told procurement officials he wanted to hire her or someone

equally as talented for CMS work.

"The quality of the work she produced was extraordinary," Wynn said. "Unfortunately, it also uncovered the alleged improprieties. It was worth every penny to have that be found out."

In August 2004, Wynn canceled one request for proposals for reorganization and gave Simmons a \$100-an-hour no-bid contract to help reorganize the legal department.

But seven weeks into the job, Simmons was declared the winner of a \$63,000 contract for what Wynn described in another e-mail as the same work. CMS spokesman Justin DeJong said the second pact was actually for reorganizing the personnel bureau.

Simmons won the second contract over four other bidders after being evaluated by a four-person team. Two team members, one of them the agency's ethics officer, reported to Wynn and had worked with Simmons.

Originally a contract for \$50,000, CMS increased it by \$9,100 in February 2005. Then, CMS paid Simmons another \$5,000 in June 2005 for interviewing candidates for positions in the legal department, even though CMS spokesman Justin DeJong told the AP that Simmons completed that job the previous November under the \$30,000 deal.

DeJong defended Simmons' hiring and said nothing improper was done. Simmons did not return a message left at her office Monday.

The continued flow of contracts to Simmons was questioned by CMS' personnel director, Dawn DeFraties, according to DeFraties' lawyer, Carl Draper of Springfield. Blagojevich aides said Friday they had fired DeFraties and then-deputy Michael Casey, contending the pair manipulated the hiring process for favored applicants.



**LAPTOPS:**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ashley Ruark, senior secondary business education major said, "My teacher took the situation very seriously and made us realize how important it is to respect the property of the university."

Ruark does not recall the exact amount her professor said the laptops were worth, but remembers they totaled at least \$30,000.

Vicki Woodward, director of Media Relations, has not received any current information on the status of the case but said she knows it is still under investigation.

**BUSH:**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the border early next month, would fill in temporarily while the nation's Border Patrol force is expanded.

Bush asked Congress to add 6,000 more Border Patrol agents by the end of his presidency and to add 6,700 more beds so illegal immigrants can be detained while waiting for hearings to determine that they can be sent home.

"We do not yet have full control of the border and I am determined to change that," the president said in a 17-minute prime-time address.

For many years, the government has not had enough detention space to hold illegal immigrants, so they were released into society and most

did not return for their court date. "This practice, called catch and release, is unacceptable and we will end it," Bush said.

The Guard troops would mostly serve two-week stints before rotating out of the assignment, so keeping the force level at 6,000 over the course of a year could require up to 156,000 troops.

Still, Bush insisted, "The United States is not going to militarize the southern border."

The White House wouldn't say how much the deployments would cost, but said the troops would be paid for as part of \$1.9 billion being requested from Congress to supplement border enforcement this year.

The Border Patrol would remain responsible for catching and detain-

ing illegal immigrants, with National Guard troops providing intelligence gathering, surveillance and other administrative support. Yet the National Guard troops would still be armed and authorized to use force to protect themselves, said Bush homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.

They are to come from the four border states — California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — but those states' governors may also seek Guard troops from other states. Reaction was mixed among the nation's governors.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said troops might provide short-term relief, but he does not believe border protection is an appropriate role for the National

Guard. California has thousands of Guard troops in Iraq and might need them in case of earthquakes, floods or other emergencies, Schwarzenegger said.

"So if you have 6,000 in Iraq and send another 6,000 to the border, what do we have left?" Schwarzenegger said.

But another Republican border state governor, Rick Perry of Texas, said he was glad the administration has realized the Guard has a role to play along the border. "We have the ability to multitask," Perry said.

Many congressional Republicans said they support Bush's plan to use National Guard troops at the border. But he ran into criticism from Democrats and some other Republicans.

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Through 255 picks, NFL teams passed on two pro-possible Panthers. Then the phone rang, and those two are now...

# GETTING THEIR CHANCE

The opportunity of a lifetime is up next for these two Eastern alums

By MATTHEW STEVENS  
SPORTS REPORTER

Two days went by, 255 picks were made by NFL franchises, and two Panther players waited for the phone to ring. Eventually, it did.

Two Eastern linemen have signed free agent contracts with pro teams as defensive end Kory Lothe will be a member of the St. Louis Rams while center Pascal Matla signed with the New Orleans Saints.

Currently, the only former Eastern player on a NFL roster is the Panthers' 2004 Walter Payton Award winner Tony Romo.

Eastern's all-time leader in touch-down passes was signed as a college free agent after the draft by the Dallas Cowboys and now remains there as the backup quarterback. Lothe, the Sun Prairie, Wis. native, watched the draft on television but his name wasn't called. However, it didn't take long for pro teams to request his services.

"I received a call from the Rams about two minutes after the draft ended," Lothe said. "It's a great feeling to have this opportunity although it hasn't really hit me yet."

The four-year starter earned first team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors this year after being named second team All-OVC the previous two years.

In his Panther career, Lothe had 195 career tackles, 24 sacks and 29 tackles for loss.

"I just hope he gets an opportunity to show what he can do," Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said. "He's worked so

hard and deserves it."

Lothe was just one of many college free agents the Rams staff, led by new head coach Scott Linehan, contacted after the draft.

"I've worked so long for this and now it's here," Lothe said. "I didn't

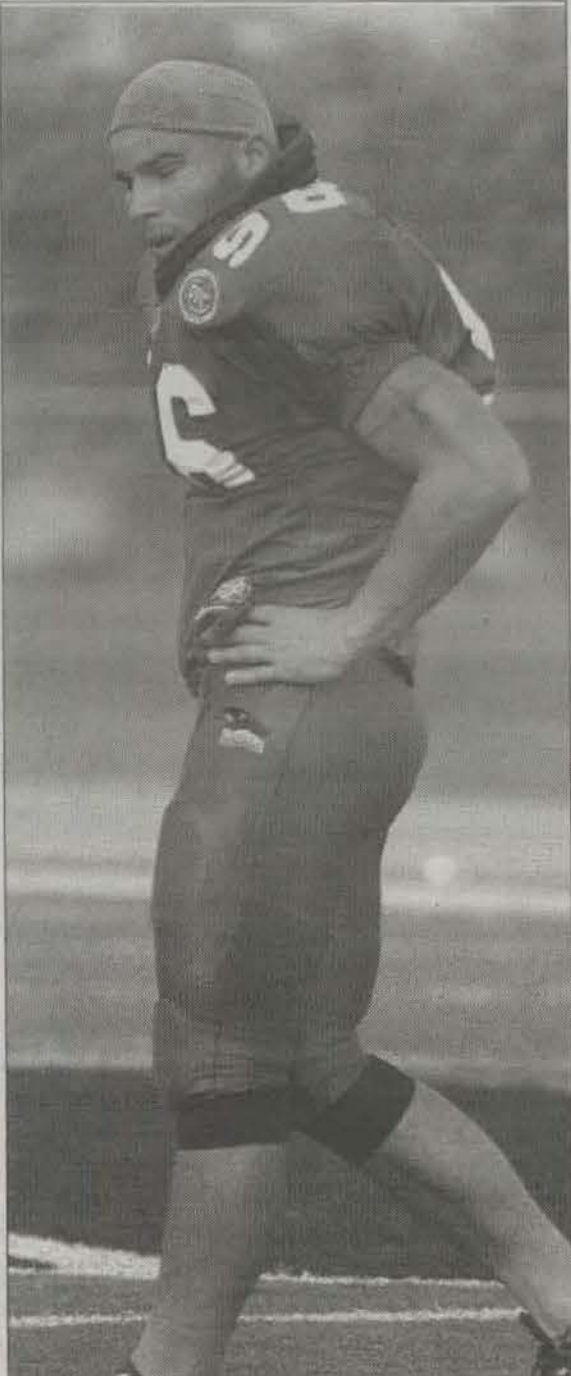
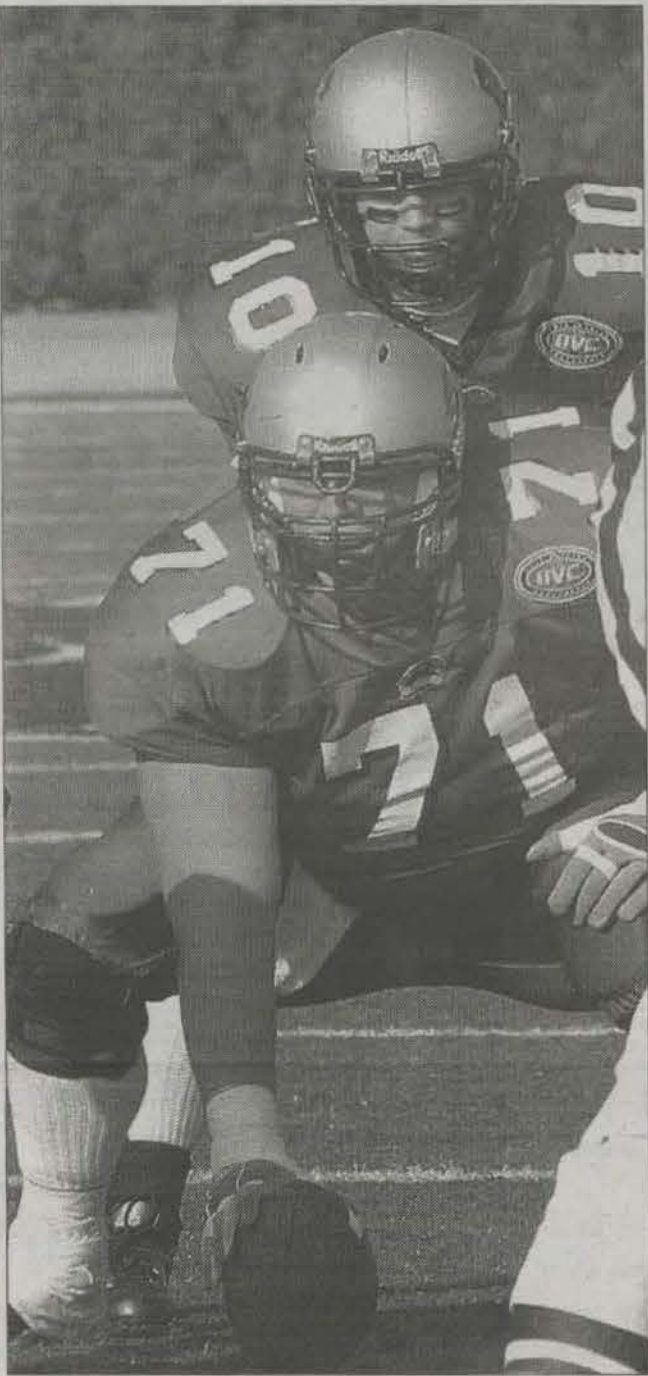
care what team just as long as I can continue to play football... that's all that's important."

While it took four more days for Matla to hear from pro teams, the call came from a familiar source.

"I received a call from Ryan Pace

(former EIU defensive lineman) who is with the Saints pro scouting department," Matla said. "He invited me down next weekend for this rookie camp."

I'd been waiting all week for a phone call, so it's exciting to get this



ERIC HILTNER/CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Center Pascal Matla and defensive end Kory Lothe will take their shot at the next level in the coming months. Matla signed a contract with the New Orleans Saints and Lothe signed with the St. Louis Rams.

opportunity."

Matla, originally from Voorburg, Holland, joined Eastern in 2001 after the Panther coaching staff scouted him in a Florida all-star game when he played for Team Europe.

"He can play all three offensive lineman positions and scored very high on the Wonderlic test (NFL's intelligence exam)," Eastern offensive coordinator Mark Hutson said.

While a three-year starter, averaged 85 percent blocking efficiency and had 127 pancake blocks, which was second most on the team in 2005.

"I get to go up against the best so it's a chance to prove myself," Matla said.

According to Hutson, one of the factors that played in Matla's favor was his European background. Teams are only allowed a certain amount of players to be sent to NFL Europe in the off-season but if the player is foreign, he can be sent without him counting.

"Several teams have told me that since he's foreign-born they could send him to NFL Europe without costing them that spot," Hutson said. "Pascal is very interested in playing for Amsterdam."

A new head coach Sean Payton, who Panther fans should know very well, leads the Saints. Payton is Eastern's all-time leader in passing yardage while he suited up for the blue and white.

The Eastern alum wasted no time picking up a Panther to try out for his roster. Training camps for the 31 teams are scheduled for mid-May. The franchises will make roster cuts after every preseason game.

Lothe and Matla will be one of the many trying to secure a spot on either the roster or practice squad by week one.

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Panther Pantry.....	8am-3:30pm	Panther Pantry.....	Closed

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# SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	BASEBALL AT BRADLEY	noon
FRIDAY	BASEBALL VS. MOREHEAD STATE (2)	1 p.m.
SATURDAY	BASEBALL VS. MOREHEAD STATE	1 p.m.

## SOFTBALL

# Shutout stops season

■ Third-place OVC finish exceeds early season predictions.

BY BRANDON NETIUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern softball finished third in the OVC tournament after losing to Eastern Kentucky by the score of 4-1 Saturday.

The Panthers managed only three hits in the loss to ECU. Rachel Karos accounted for the only run of the game for Eastern when she hit a solo home run in the top of the third.

The game marked the fifth time the two teams played in a week's time, with the Panthers winning the previous four.

The loss ended a tournament run that began with a 6-5 come from behind victory over ECU.

Down 5-2 heading into the bottom of the seventh, Eastern scored four times to pull out the dramatic victory.

Sandyn Short led the offensive

attack for the Panthers as she drove in three runs, including the game-tying tally.

The Panthers had another late inning comeback result to a 2-1 victory over Jacksonville St. in the second game of the tourney.

Karos scored a run in the top of the seventh to tie the game at one.

In the top of the eighth inning, Angela Danca led off with a single and scored the winning run on Sarah Coppert's base hit to center field.

"Seeing them celebrate and enjoy the victory is why you play sports," Eastern head coach Kim Schuette said.

Those two victories led to a match-up with top-seeded Tennessee Tech in which Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Year Bonnie Bynum shut out the Panthers 4-0.

The loss ended the Panthers' nine-game winning streak and set up the rematch with opening round foe ECU.

Second baseman Sarah Coppert and pitcher Karyn Mackie were both selected to the All-Tournament Team.

Coppert finished the tournament with a .308 batting average and drove in a pair of runs.

Mackie picked up both Eastern victories on the mound, including a complete game victory over Jacksonville St.

Eastern finished third in the OVC in the regular season as well. The Panthers finished with an overall record of 36-26-1.

Schuette was happy with the results of the season, as the Panthers were not expected to finish where they did.

"We were picked eighth in the preseason, so it was a big accomplishment to finish third," she said.

Eleven players are slated to return for next season, giving reason to believe that this season's success can continue on in the future.

Schuette feels this season was important as the team brought back the idea of having fun, as well as gained respect throughout the conference after this year's results.

"It was a thrill of a ride, but most importantly the girls came together as a team. This will go down in EIU history as a big year in softball," Schuette said.



JAY GRABEIC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior third baseman Rachel Karos makes a play from third base against Austin Peay on April 30 at Williams Field.

## BASEBALL

# Eastern takes one from Eastern Kentucky

■ Team clinches playoff berth despite dropping two of three in weekend series.

BY BRANDON NETIUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern's baseball team clinched a berth in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament even though they lost two of their three games at Eastern Kentucky this past weekend.

The Panthers took the first game of the series by a score of 11-4.

Eastern consistently had people on base as they took seven walks to go along with their 16 hits.

This led to scoring in six of the nine innings, highlighted by a four-run sixth.

Mike Budde got the victory for the Panthers as he came on in the third inning and put up 4 2/3 innings of scoreless relief.

"Mike came in game one and pitched spectacular," Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said.

Budde left the game after a batted ball struck him in the wrist. X-rays were negative, yet his availability for the team's upcoming games is still uncertain. ECU won game two of the doubleheader 2-1.

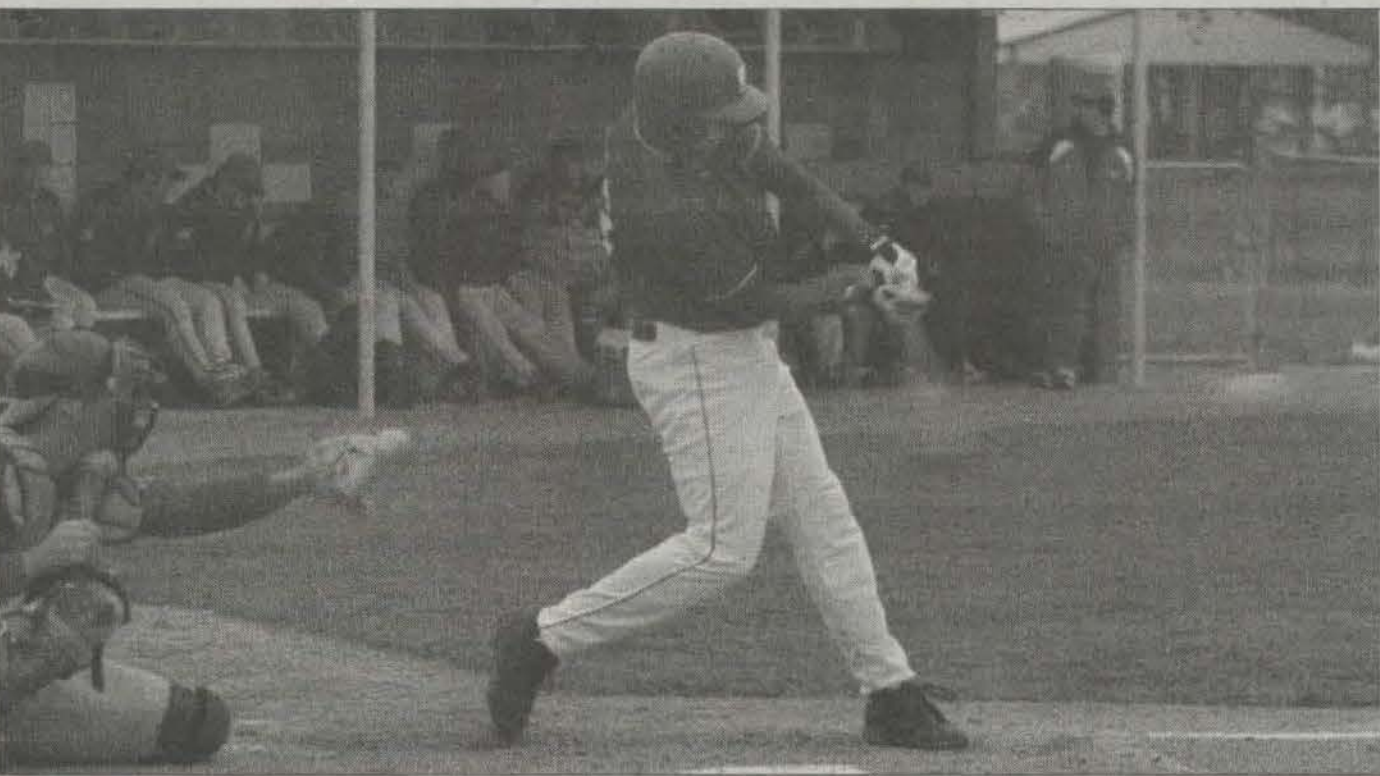
Eastern only had two hits, with a solo home run by Erik Huber in the seventh inning accounting for the Panthers' only run.

Kenny Firlit pitched well for Eastern but took the loss. Firlit gave up two earned runs in 4 1/3 innings.

The Panthers put up six runs in a losing effort Sunday as ECU won the rubber match by a score of 8-6.

The Colonels' scored in each of the first five innings, yet Eastern kept pace as the score was 6-6 in the top of the fifth.

Eastern managed only one hit off of ECU's relievers, how-



JAY GRABEIC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior shortstop Adam Varrassi hits a double in the fourth inning for an RBI during Eastern's game against Southeast Missouri at Coaches stadium on April 30. Eastern lost 4-3.

ever, and when the Colonels' plated two runs in the bottom of the fifth it proved to be the difference.

The Panthers are happy to have clinched a spot in the OVC tourney as it shows improvement over last year when they failed to qualify. Still, this weekend was a disappointment.

"At this time of year we're not happy with one good game out of three," Schmitz said.

The Panthers overall record now stands at 28-21 and a conference record of 14-10.

Eastern plays their final non-conference game of the season today when they travel to Bradley to play the Braves. Erik Huber gets the start on the mound for Eastern.

The Panthers defeated Bradley 6-2 earlier this year at the Florida All-Star Challenge on March 16.